



KENTUCKY  
**Council**  
on postsecondary education

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Thomas D. Layzell  
President

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The Council on Postsecondary Education is directed by statute to provide to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly an accountability report on Kentucky's postsecondary system. Here we document the progress achieved in 2002-03 toward achieving the goals of the *Postsecondary Education Improvement Act* of 1997.

Much has been accomplished since reform began. There are tens of thousands more students on Kentucky's public and independent campuses. More Kentuckians than ever before are taking classes on campus and in the workplace and in the evening and on weekends and on-line. Graduation and retention rates are higher than they were in 1998. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System has been an unqualified success. The comprehensive universities are serving as points access to thousands more students and are building Programs of Distinction that are gaining national recognition. And the research institutions are contributing to the infrastructure necessary for Kentucky to compete successfully in a knowledge economy.

But there is a lot of work still to do to reach the goals we have for Kentucky. Retention and graduation rates are still below the national average and several of our campuses have not been able to maintain steady progress. Even with substantial growth in enrollments in Kentucky's two-year institutions, transfer from there to our four-year institutions is not increasing. Cooperation among our institutions is growing, but there are a lot of areas where more collaboration can and should take place.

There is no doubt that the progress we've made has benefited the people of Kentucky. But much remains to be done as we work toward the goals we've set for 2020. In most areas, the progress is steady and the momentum is strong. But there are performance issues that the Council and the institutions are committed to addressing.

We appreciate the vision and support you have brought to the cause of postsecondary education reform.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Layzell